

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OCOM, US,MX

SUBJECT: VISIT AND SPEECH BY PUERTO RICAN GOVERNOR

1. JOSE CABRANES, DIRECTOR OF COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO OFFICE IN WASHINGTON HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, RAFAEL HERNANDEZ-COLON HAS ACCEPTED PRIVATE INVITATION TO VISIT MEXICO CITY AND ADDRESS MEXICAN BAR ASSOCIATION (BARRA MEXICANA) ON NOVEMBER 7. HIS TOPIC IS POLITICAL AND LEGAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AND IN BROADER CONTEXT HE WOULD RESPOND TO SOME OF CRITICISM LEVELED AT PUERTO RICO IN UN. GOVERNOR PRESENTLY PLANS TO BE IN MEXICO CITY THREE OR FOUR DAYS CALLING ON GOM OFFICIALS, MEETING PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY, ETC. HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SECRETARIES OF COMMERCE AND JUSTICE, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF PUERTO RICAN CULTURE AND DIRECTOR OF COMMONWEALTH WASHINGTON OFFICE.

2. SEVERAL PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY IN MEXICO CITY SOUNDING OUT PROSPECTS AND SEEKING APPOINT-
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MENTS WITH GOM OFFICIALS. (FYI THEY ARE PLEASED WITH

BAR ASSOCIATION HOST BUT NOT AS CONTENT WITH LOCALE OF SPEECH. END FYI).

3. CABRANES INFORMS US GOVERNOR WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR MCBRIDE AND RECEIVE LOW-KEY ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FROM EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING DISCREET HELP IN PUBLICIZING SPEECH. GOVERNOR WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MAKE COURTESY CALLS ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND SECRETARY RABASA, AND HIS ASSOCIATES (WITH OR WITHOUT GOVERNOR IS NOT CLEAR) WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON THEIR MEXICAN COUNTER-PARTS.

4. IN THEIR DESIRE TO AVOID "TOO CLOSE" ASSOCIATION WITH EMBASSY, "FOR APPEARANCES SAKE", PUERTO RICANS WOULD LIKE TO HAVE GOVERNOR CALL ON PRESIDENT, RABASA AND OTHER OFFICIALS ALONE. OFFERING EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS, WE HAVE REPLIED THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE AND ESSENTIAL FOR AMBASSADOR TO ACCOMPANY GOVERNOR IN CALLS ON PRINCIPALS (PRESIDENT AND RABASA). WHEN WE DISCUSS VISIT WITH CABRANES AGAIN NEXT WEEK WE WILL SUGGEST UTILITY OF AN EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANYING PUERTO RICANS ON OTHER MINISTERIAL LEVEL CALLS AS WELL. HOWEVER, SINCE PUERTO RICANS DO HAVE AN IMAGE-PROJECTION PROBLEM IN CARIBBEAN AREA AND AT UN, WE ARE INCLINED TO BE MORE RELAXED ON MATTER OF CALLS ON OFFICIALS OTHER THAN PRESIDENT AND RABASA. FYI GOVERNOR, INSTALLED EARLIER THIS YEAR, HAS EXPRESSED INTENTION OF VISITING NUMBER OF CARIBBEAN AREA STATES AND THIS IS HIS FIRST EFFORT. RECOGNIZING THAT THERE IS AN ESSENTIAL ROLE FOR STATE AND EMBASSIES IN THESE VISITS AND BOUNDS TO WHAT GOVERNOR CAN APPROPRIATELY DO HIMSELF, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHOW HIM THAT OUR ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT TO SUCCESS OF HIS VENTURES TO OFFSET WHAT HE MAY FEEL TO BE NEGATIVE CONSTRAINTS ON THE OTHER SIDE. END FYI.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON FOREGOING. KISSINGER

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